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Housekeepers' Chat

Wed., Feb. 22

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Subject: "Colors That Add Charm to the Living Room." (Letter written by Ruth Van Deman, Associate in Charge of Publications, Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture). Menu and Recipe from Bureau of Home Economics.

Publications available: "Aunt Sammy's Radio Recipes"-- still going strong.

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Do you remember, last fall, when I read you a letter from a listener, who described the passing of the parlor, into a living room? I have another letter, from the very same person. She made me promise not to divulge her name, but I can tell you this much -- she is much interested in "The Housekeepers' Chats," and she can plan better meals than -- Dear me! If I'm not careful, you'll guess who she is. I'd better read her letter, right now. Tell Johnny Junior to look at the pictures in his story book, and stop asking questions, for just a few minutes, while I read this letter:

"Dear Aunt Sammy: Last fall I wrote to you about the passing of a parlor, into a livable living room, all in the course of one evening, by the magic of three pairs of strong arms, and a few grains of knowledge about interior decoration. Soon you'll be thinking that furnishing living rooms is a hobby with me. I own it is so. I might have been an interior decorator, if I hadn't been---. But I mustn't give myself away, Aunt Sammy.

"This living room story I'm going to tell you today has no happy ending-- as yet. I am hoping, however, that my friends will realize for themselves, some day, what their room lacks, to make it a friendly, inviting place. The great need of their room is bright colors, placed in the right way. But let me describe the room as it is.

"Imagine a large, nicely proportioned room, with well-placed windows in three walls and a fireplace on the fourth. The woodwork and the floor are natural-finish oak, very durable, requiring little care in upkeep. The wall paper is a light grayish-tan, excellent as a background for colorful pictures. But my friends' living room pictures are all large steel engravings, in heavy, silver-trimmed oak frames. I get a positive chill, as I look at those steel engravings, on those grayish-tan walls.

"The rug also is grayish-tan, with a good small-figured pattern. The over-draperies at the windows, and the portieres, are also grayish-tan, matching the rug almost to a T. The tables, and several chairs, are oak, like the woodwork and the floor.



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"Last year, my friends bought some new upholstered living-room furniture-- a davenport, and a comfortable high-backed chair. They chose grayish-tan tapestry covering, for this furniture.

"On the couch in a corner, is a tan covering, and every one of the pillows, if you can believe it, has a natural-colored, gray linen cover. Substantial, washable, but Oh so drab! Even the lamp on the library table is of neutral-colored lacquered brass, and has a gray-green leaded glass shade. The table cover is of gray-brown tapestry.

"My friends are bookish people. All their lives they have read many books, and they own many books. But in their living room is only a tiny book case, at one side of the fireplace, and this case is never full of books. Even the books they have are not arranged to look decorative, or even tidy.

"Honestly, Aunt Sammy, after I have been in that room an hour, I feel myself turning grayish-tan. My remarks are as drab and dull as the rug, the walls, the furniture, the pillows, and the steel engravings. When there is not a fire on the hearth, there just isn't a single spot of gay color in that entire room. It is as dull and monotonous as a winter landscape, under a leaden sky.

"Of course, I'm fond of my friends, and I respect their great learning on many matters, but I do wish they'd leave a small check on the mantel-piece, tell me the house is mine for a week, and go off on a vacation. What would I do? Just this.

"Before the chug of their Ford was lost in the distance, I'd have those steel engravings in the attic. No, I wouldn't throw them away. They are essentially good, and some day, in some room, with a lot of color in other furnishings, they will be just the thing. Laid away in a trunk my friend has four large gay-colored prints. For years she has been talking about framing them, but she always ends up by saying that she has so many framed pictures now. It never seems to occur to her that her lovely colored pictures might replace some of the uninteresting dingy ones now on her walls. Well, I'd have those colored prints framed and on the living-room wall, when my friend came home.

"On the large table under the reading lamp, I'd have an interesting cover, also of many colors. One of those inexpensive cotton India prints with soft orange, dull blue, jade green, hunter's green, and gold, with the rich design outlined in black, would be charming. Then I'd use these same colors in pillows, vases and other things. This table cover would be the key to everything else I chose.

"For the covers for the couch pillows I'd have one of dull orange, two of green cotton rep, and one or two with India prints, like the table cover.

"Poked away on a closet shelf, my friend has some nice vases with good lines. The dull blue pottery one I'd fill with a big bunch of orange and red bittersweet. She also has a nice old copper tray. I'd polish this until it shone, and stand it on the other end of the mantel. Each of these would repeat colors in the framed colored print in the center.





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"From the next room I'd bring enough books to fill the bookcase, and I'd arrange them carefully, so that their many colored bindings would become part of the color plan of the room. Some of the most attractive and interesting books I'd place between brass book-ends, on the table by the reading lamp.

"There, Aunt Sammy, can you see that room now? Color in the pictures, color in the couch pillows, and table cover, color on the mantel in the vase of bitter-sweet and in the copper tray, color in the book bindings. The grayish-tan rug and walls and large pieces of furniture are now made a pleasing background, for small, bright furnishings.

"If my friend could once get the idea, I am sure she would continue. She has a fine old paisley shawl that would be stunning, hung on the wall opposite the living room door. Maybe she would use her birthday money for a new lamp, with soft green pottery base, and a parchment shade banded in green and orange. And when the present window draperies wear out, perhaps she would choose a cretonne, of good conventional design, combining dull green, blue, amethyst, gold, and a touch of red orange. Such draperies also are a good foundation for a color scheme. I had to work out my color from the inexpensive India print.

"Anyway, Aunt Sammy, I hope I live to see the day when my friend will bring deep rich colors into her living room in simple, inexpensive ways."

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That's all of the letter. Doesn't it make you see what can be done, to brighten up a gloomy, drab room? Reminds me of the cretonne I bought last week, for curtains in the sun room. I saw this piece of cretonne on the bargain counter, four yards for \$3.00 -- just enough for the two windows in my sun room, if I <sup>goes</sup> split the cretonne down the center. It really was a bargain, as far as material/ -- a very heavy piece -- almost like linen. I took it home, on approval, fastened it to the windows, and called in the family. I forgot to mention that the cretonne has a green background, splashed with huge flowers in red, orange, and yellow, with big black leaves.

"How do you like it?" I asked Uncle Ebenezer. Uncle Ebenezer studied it thoughtfully. "Aunt Sammy," he said, "Isn't it just a little-- well, just a trifle noisy for this small space?"

"But it brightens up the room!" I explained. "Doesn't it, Fred?"

"It does!" said Fred. "And how!"

"Well, after those remarks, I decided to take the cretonne back, and exchange it for a piece a little more refined, or genteel, or something. I hope you don't let the men-folks dictate to you, the way I let my family boss me.

I really didn't mean to talk about my curtains, today, however. If you take your pencils, please, we'll go from curtains to croquettes-- salmon croquettes. This is the menu: Salmon Croquettes, Mashed Turnip; Buttered Peas; and





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Lemon Pie. The only recipe I'll give you is for Salmon Croquettes-- 10 ingredients:

2 cups canned salmon	1 tablespoon chopped parsley
1 cup milk	1 tablespoon lemon juice
3 tablespoons flour	3/4 teaspoon salt, and
3 tablespoons butter	1 egg and
1/2 cup dried, sifted, bread crumbs	1 tablespoon cold water

Ten ingredients, for Salmon Croquettes. Please check them: (Repeat)

Prepare a cream sauce of the butter, flour, and milk. Let it cool. Drain the salmon, remove the small particles of bone, and break the fish into small pieces. Mix the cream sauce, fish, lemon juice, parsley, bread crumbs, and salt. Form the mixture into croquettes. Dip into the beaten egg, which has been well mixed with the water. Roll in very finely sifted bread crumbs. Place on a pan or board. Let stand for an hour, or longer, for the egg coating to dry.

Heat in an iron kettle any desired fat, until hot enough to brown a bread crumb, in 40 seconds. Then, carefully place the croquettes in a wire basket, lower them slowly into the fat, and cook until a golden brown. As the croquettes are removed, put them on a paper to absorb the excess fat, and keep warm in the oven until all are prepared. Serve with a garnish of parsley.

To repeat the menu: Salmon Croquettes, Mashed Turnips; Buttered Peas; and Lemon Pie. You'll find the recipe for Lemon Pie in the Radio Cookbook-- the cookbook which is becoming more famous every day.

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